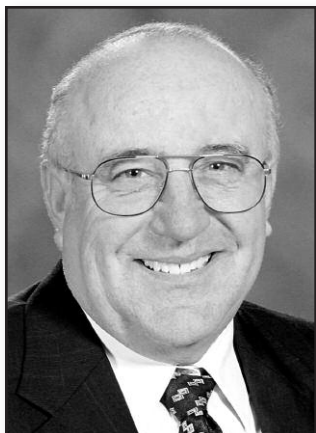


FAMILY UPDATE 2009



STATE SENATOR

Ron Jelinek

Dear Friend:

In today's uncertain world, it's good to know that some things are enduring – the love and support of family, and the values of home and community. After all, it is these values, learned early in life and passed from generation to generation, that carry us through difficult times.

As we head into back-to-school time, I am pleased to update you on several pro-family issues that may be of interest. Please do not hesitate to contact me toll-free at 866-305-2121 or by e-mail at senrjelinek@senate.michigan.gov if you would like further information on any of these topics.

It is my honor and privilege to serve the families of the 21st District and I will continue to work hard on your behalf. I hope you will call on me if you have any questions or concerns or need assistance with any state matter. My best wishes for a fun fall season!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Ron Jelinek in black ink.

Ron Jelinek
State Senator
21st District



JELINEK SUPPORTS TAX RELIEF FOR HOMEOWNERS

As homeowners in the 21st district confront declining property values and increasing property taxes, I want to tell you about Senate measures I supported to make sure families aren't taxed out of their homes.

SJR H would help homeowners lower their property taxes if their home value drops. It would allow the public to vote on a constitutional amendment that would prevent a homeowner's property taxes from increasing from the previous year if the assessed value of their home decreased.

SB 191 would increase the homestead property tax credit from \$1,200 to \$1,300 and allow more Michigan homeowners to qualify for the full credit. The bill also provides an added \$50 increase for seniors and totally disabled persons.

New legislation would also help more people exercise their right to appeal. SB 373 would make property tax assessment notices easier to understand.

All of the measures await consideration in the House.



Jelinek supports strengthening child protection laws

Children in state care deserve a safe home – just like your children or mine.

New Senate legislation strengthens the review process that takes place when a child dies either while in foster care, under court jurisdiction or after involvement with Child Protective Services.

Senate Bill 257 establishes a database of non-identifying information on the children's deaths that is accessible to the public.

Other legislation (SB 258-261) adds requirements to ensure accountability and communication between local and state agencies, including the courts.

There have been several heartbreaking deaths of vulnerable children in recent years. I am hopeful this reform plan will help state and local agencies identify any patterns or trends to avoid similar tragedies.

The bills passed the Senate and await action in the House.

MICHILD

In these tough economic times, parents shouldn't have to worry about the health of their children.

Your family may qualify for MICHild, a health insurance program for uninsured children of Michigan's working families.

The program costs \$10 a month per family. There are no co-pays or deductibles.

The services are provided by many HMOs and other health care plans and include, but are not limited to:

- Prenatal care and delivery
- Regular checkups
- Shots
- Emergency care
- Dental care
- Pharmacy
- Hospital care

For more information, including eligibility requirements, call toll-free 1-888-988-6300 or go to www.michigan.gov/mdch and click on Health Care Coverage.



PROTECTING THE PUBLIC THROUGH CORRECTIONS REFORMS

As a legislator, public safety is my top priority. New legislation working its way through the Senate helps the state save money in the corrections system without closing prisons and releasing felons.

Among other provisions, Senate Bills 473-478 and Senate Resolution 41:

- Set requirements that prisoners must meet to be paroled, including a detailed treatment plan for drug and alcohol abuse, or mental health, if appropriate;
- Require Corrections to purchase all goods and services by competitive bid;
- Require Corrections to partner with in-state medical schools for health care services;
- Require counties with teleconferencing technology to use it for court proceedings; and
- Urge Corrections to set up nondenominational prison congregation programs.

Public safety should never be compromised for budget reasons. These reforms are common sense measures that streamline prison services and cut spending without putting people at risk.

LOWERING BLOOD DONATION AGE TO 16

Donating blood is often called “giving the gift of life.”

I supported recent legislation that allows more teenagers to become blood donors and save lives.

Senate Bill 419 lowers the minimum age to donate blood to 16, with the permission of a parent or guardian.

Michigan's blood centers are facing increasing demand and a decreasing number of eligible donors. With their parents' consent, more teenagers would have the opportunity to help others.

Thirty states allow 16-year-olds to donate blood and several others have legislation pending.

The bill awaits action in the House.

Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood!

A single car accident victim can require as many as 100 units of blood!

More than 38,000 blood donations are needed every day!



State Senator Ron Jelinek

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JELINEK SUPPORTS MADE IN THE USA BILL

American flags should be made in America – especially if they're flying over government buildings.

New Senate legislation says just that. SB 48 requires American and state of Michigan flags flown over state-owned buildings to be made in the United States.

With so many products manufactured overseas, the least we can do is make sure the flag – the proud symbol of our country – is made here.

The bill has been reported out of committee and awaits consideration on the Senate floor.

PATRIOTIC LICENSE PLATE NOW AVAILABLE

We owe so much to the courage and sacrifice of the men and women serving in our armed forces. Now we have the opportunity to show our appreciation by buying a Support Our Troops license plate.

The cost of the plate is \$35, with \$25 of the fee donated to the non-profit Support Our Troops organization, which sends care packages to troops stationed overseas.

The plate features the stirring image of a military member standing with a child and an American flag as the background.

I was proud to support the legislation that authorized this special plate.

For more information about the Support Our Troops organization, visit www.SupportOurTroops.org. Information on the license plate is available at www.michigan.gov/sos.

